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NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

Fact Sheet
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What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, writing, arts, civics, and history. NAEP is congressionally mandated and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. The results of NAEP are published as *The Nation's Report Card*.

What schools participate in NAEP?

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), all states and school districts receiving Title I funds must participate in NAEP assessments in reading and mathematics at grades four and eight every other year. In Maryland, all 24 districts receive Title I funding so all are required to participate, however, only a small number of students from each district take the assessments.

Why do schools participate?

NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education. NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.

Which assessments will students take in the 2010-11 school year?

Students in grades four and eight will take NAEP reading and mathematics assessments. Students in grade eight will also take science and writing. Not every student at these grades will take the assessments. In school year 2010-11, results in eighth grade science and mathematics will be internationally benchmarked. The scores of students in the U.S. will be compared with those of students in 50 other countries.

How does NAEP relate to the MSA and the HSA?

The MSA and the HSA provide student and school performance data. NAEP data are used to make state and regional comparisons because the same assessment is given to students in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Maryland teachers have access to the *NAEP Questions Tool*, a data base of more than 2,000 questions that have been used in past assessments and that have been released to the public.

Where can I find NAEP results for Maryland?

State NAEP results are publicly released and are reported on the following websites: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> and www.mdreportcard.org.

Where can I get more information?

Contact the Maryland NAEP coordinator at 410-767-0027.